



Introduced Version

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 2

Introduced by: Crouch

A RESOLUTION recognizing September as Chiari Malformation Month.

Whereas, Chiari malformation, as recognized by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, includes a complex group of disorders characterized by herniation of the cerebellum;

Whereas, The herniated tissue blocks the circulation of cerebrospinal fluid in the brain, which can lead to the formation of a cavity within the spinal cord;

Whereas, Symptoms of Type I Chiari malformation include severe headache, dizziness, vertigo, disequilibrium, visual disturbances, difficulty swallowing, heart palpitations, sleep

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apnea, impaired fine motor skills, chronic fatigue, and painful tingling of the hands and feet;

Whereas, Because of the complex symptomology, patients with Type I Chiari malformation are frequently misdiagnosed;

Whereas, Type II Chiari malformation, also called Arnold-Chiari malformation, is usually accompanied by a myelomeningocele, a form of spina bifida that occurs when the spinal canal and the backbone do not close before birth, causing the spinal cord to protrude through an opening in the back, which can result in partial or complete paralysis below the spinal opening;

Whereas, Type III Chiari malformation, the most serious form, results in severe and often irreversible neurological defects;

Whereas, Treatment for this disorder is not a certain and definitive path;

Whereas, Medication may ease certain symptoms, such as pain, but surgery is often the only treatment available to correct functional disturbances or halt the progression of damage to the central nervous system;

Whereas, Until recently, Chiari malformation was regarded as a rare condition, but with the increased use of magnetic resonance imaging, the number of reported cases has risen dramatically;

Whereas, New genetic studies support a hereditary tendency with a transmissibility rate of 12%; and

Whereas, The studies also found that women are three times more likely to be afflicted by this debilitating disorder than men: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives



- 1 recognizes the month of September as Chiari Malformation Month and
- 2 promotes advocacy for this important cause.

